

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 191
By Hargett

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sam Phillips upon the occasion of his induction into the Society of Entrepreneurs and reflect fondly upon a life well lived.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary entrepreneurial efforts, have distinguished themselves as successful business professionals and benevolent community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person was the late Sam Phillips who will be posthumously inducted into the Society of Entrepreneurs on April 16, 2005 in recognition of the entrepreneurial success, hard work, and community service for which he was renowned; and

WHEREAS, the Society of Entrepreneurs was founded in 1991 to foster the development of the entrepreneurial spirit and to recognize the contributions of entrepreneurs to business and the community; and

WHEREAS, the Society of Entrepreneurs' mission is to promote the general welfare of the community, to further the public good, and to further education in Tennessee through the creation, development, and implementation of various community programs which recognize and encourage the efforts of entrepreneurs in business and the local, national, and international communities; and

WHEREAS, choosing only four new members in 2005, the Society of Entrepreneurs selects mature business leaders who have exhibited personal business achievement, self direction, leadership, personal integrity, determination, creativity, and the ability to transform a vision into a dynamic business achievement; and

WHEREAS, in 1949, disc jockey Sam Phillips bought a radiator shop at 706 Union Avenue in Memphis and converted it into Sun's Memphis Recording Service, the studio that many consider to be the birthplace of Rock 'N Roll; and

WHEREAS, adopting the motto "We record anything – anywhere – anytime," the Memphis Recording Service and its label, Sun Records, recorded and worked with such great artists as Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, Carl Perkins, Charlie Rich, Carl Mann, Bill Justis, and Jerry Lee Lewis; and

WHEREAS, in 1951, Sam Phillips recorded a session with Jackie Brenston and deejay Ike Turner whose version of "Rocket 88" is considered by many experts to be the first Rock 'N Roll record; and

WHEREAS, combining his deep love for music and entrepreneurial creativity, Sam Phillips sold millions of albums and recorded some of the most famous songs in Rock 'N Roll history; and

WHEREAS, Sam Phillips' label, Sun Records, recorded many famous songs including "That's All Right, (Mama)," "Great Balls of Fire," and "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On"; and

WHEREAS, evincing his deep commitment to community service, Mr. Phillips helped numerous struggling musicians, and he was also an avid supporter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, M.D. Anderson Clinic in Houston, and the Boys Club of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, epitomizing the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of any true Tennessean, Sam Phillips was both a consummate professional and a model public servant who shared his many talents with the greater Memphis community; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Phillips and reflect upon his bountiful life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and remember the late Sam Phillips for his entrepreneurial creativity and success, and upon the occasion of his induction into the Society of Entrepreneurs take time to reflect upon his great contributions to the business and music communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.